

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The claims have been amended to eliminate multiple dependencies, to have the claims read based upon an Article 34 amendment in the counterpart international application, and better to conform the claims to U.S. format.

An early examination of Claims 1-7, 9, 10, 12, and 13 is earnestly solicited.

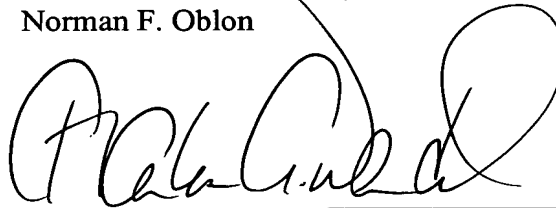
Respectfully submitted,

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A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Charles A. Wendel', is written over a horizontal line.

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NFO:CW\la